

NAVY WINS ITS FIGHT

Personnel Bill is Passed by the House Without Division.

PRIZE MONEY STATUTE IS ABOLISHED

Material Increase is Made in the Marine Corps Branch.

TO HAVE GENERAL OFFICERS AND STAFF

Compulsory Retirements from the Navy Are Provided for.

RELIEVES CONGESTION IN LOWER RANKS

Measure Makes Certain Changes for Which the Officers of the Navy Have Been Fighting for Years.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The house today passed the naval personnel bill without division on the final passage, thus accomplishing what the officers of the navy have striven for during more than a decade.

By its provision the line and the engineer corps are welded into an amalgamated line, staff officers are given positive rank, but the command is limited to their own corps, and a system of voluntary and compulsory retirements on three-quarters pay, as of the next higher rank, of forty officers a year, is established, which is designed to remove the congestion in the lower ranks.

The bill also practically equalizes their pay with that of army officers.

Three important amendments were adopted. One creates a judge advocate's corps, another abolishes prize money and a third provides for the retirement, on three-quarters pay, of enlisted men and petty officers in the navy after thirty years' service.

But the most important change in the bill as reported was the adoption, after a hard fight, of a substitute for the organization of a marine corps, by which the corps is to consist of 6,000 enlisted men and petty officers, with general officers and staff. This will increase the marine corps by 1,300 men and increase the cost of its maintenance \$1,500,000.

Several unimportant bills were passed by unanimous consent before the personnel bill was taken up.

Withdraws McCleary Bill

Immediately after the reading of the journal Mr. McCleary, republican of Minnesota, introduced a currency commission, made a statement to the effect that the vote on the currency bill reported at the last session had been regularly taken in the commission, and he therefore asked that the bill be re-committed.

"This does not mean that the bill is to be abandoned," asked Mr. Richardson, democrat of Tennessee.

"No, sir."

"The other side has promised currency reform like to know if the bill is again to be reported."

"I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet," responded Mr. McCleary, explaining that there had been some irregularity in the vote, and in order to avoid any such show of unfairness to the opponents of the bill this action had been decided upon. There was no objection and the bill was re-committed.

Exposition Bill is Blocked

Mr. Mercer asked unanimous consent for the consideration of the bill for the aid of the Exposition of Greater America, to be held at Omaha, but Mr. Richardson objected because the bill had not been considered by a committee of the house.

A bill was passed to amend the act granting a right of way through the Indian Territory to the Galveston, McAlester & St. Louis Railway company.

The house then went into committee of the whole and resumed consideration of the naval personnel bill. Mr. Bailey moved to strike out from section 7 the following proviso: "And, provided, further, that nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prevent the retirement of officers with the rank and pay of commodore."

The rank of commodore, he said, was abolished in the navy after thirty years' service, and he continued on the retired list.

There are not enough ships.

Mr. Lord, republican of California, in criticism of the bill said the complaint of the naval officers under the present system that they did not reach command rank early enough was due to the fact that there were not enough ships. Advancement was as rapid in the navy as in the merchant service. He made some sarcastic references to the deep sea sailors on the committee who lived in West Virginia and other interior states.

Mr. Bailey's amendment was lost—60 to 112.

Mr. Bailey then offered an amendment to strike out from section 8, the section providing for compulsory retirement, the provision for the retirement of officers with the rank and pay of the next higher grade.

Mr. Foss said that an inducement had to be held out to voluntarily retire. Mr. Bailey said he had expected such a frankness from the gentleman in charge of the bill. "You see," he declared, "to place a premium on retirement from the service you propose to hire men to quit in order that the lower officers may be promoted more rapidly, and you propose to follow this with a similar bill for retirement from army service."

The amendment was lost—72 to 79—whereupon Mr. Bailey moved to strike out the whole section. Mr. Bailey said in principle he opposed the bill, but he would support it if Mr. Dayton, republican of West Virginia, said this and the following section were the vital ones in the bill. Voluntary retirement from the lower grades would not only prevent stagnation, but it would be economical in that officers would be retired in the lower grades and not be rushed through the higher grades and then retired in the highest rank at three-quarters pay.

Will Promote Efficiency.

Mr. Cummings, in supporting the proposed retirement system, said: "This bill is to promote the efficiency of the navy and, looking at the Philippines, Russia, Germany and France, I say you will need an efficient navy within the next ten years."

The amendment was defeated—52 to 91.

Mr. Southard, republican of Ohio, on behalf of the committee, offered an amendment, which was adopted, creating a regular judge advocate general, one assistant judge advocate, one deputy judge advocate and two judge advocates.

Mr. Simpson, populist of Kansas, moved to strike out the provision abolishing the two years' sea course for naval cadets. It was defeated.

Mr. Foss offered a committee substitute for section 14, providing that boatswains, gunners, carpenters and sailmakers shall, after ten years from date of the warrant, be commissioned chief boatswains, chief gunners, etc., to rank with and after ensigns, and that they shall, on promotion, have the same pay and allowances now allowed second lieutenants in the marine corps. It was adopted.

Another amendment abolishing prize money for the capture or destruction of the enemy's ships in times of war was also adopted without debate or division.

Mr. Cummings offered a committee amendment for the retirement of enlisted men and petty officers of the navy after thirty years' service in the civil or Spanish-American war to be computed as double time.

Mr. Simpson asked why enlisted men were not placed on an equality with officers and retired as of the next highest rank.

Mr. Cummings replied that the object of the amendment was to place the enlisted men of the navy on an equality with those of the army. It was only officers who had service in the civil war, or who were forced out of the service, who were retired as of the next highest grade.

Mr. Cummings' amendment was adopted.

Increases Marine Corps.

Mr. Meyer, democrat of Louisiana, on behalf of the committee, offered a substitute covering the marine corps. Under it the marine corps would consist of one commandant with the rank of major general, one brigadier general, five colonels, five lieutenant colonels, ten majors, sixty captains, six lieutenants and 6,000 privates, practically doubling the number of officers provided for in the original bill.

Vacancies are to be filled as far as possible by seniority from the active line, commissions in the present corps not to be filled by transfer from the line of the navy, not above the grade of junior lieutenant, from those who served as second lieutenants in the marine corps during the Spanish war, for meritorious service, non-commissioned officers, or from civil life. Only a portion of the officers are to be appointed before January 1, 1900.

The staff marine corps is to consist of an adjutant and inspector, a quartermaster, a paymaster, each with the rank of colonel, two assistant quartermasters, two assistant paymasters, each with the rank of major; and three assistant quartermasters with the rank of captain. During service with fleets senior officers are to hold rank next above that held in the corps.

It provides for 6,000 petty officers and enlisted men.

In response to an inquiry Mr. Meyer said the substitute would strengthen the marine corps 1,300 men, and increase the cost \$1,500,000.

Mr. Steele, republican of Indiana, thought the committee was demanding a good deal of the house in asking support for a substitute which had not been passed on by the commission which drafted the personnel bill.

Mr. Meyer said the late war had demonstrated the necessity for an increase of the marine corps.

Mr. Bennett, republican of New York, moved to strike from the substitute the clause which provided for the retention of the rank of the corps, and he asked that the rank of the corps be scattered, he said, and never mobilized. The commandant was simply a bureau officer and not entitled to the rank of major general.

Mr. Foss, republican of Minnesota, offered a substitute for the personnel bill, and good name of the committee and his party in the house he hoped the substitute would be voted down.

Mr. Meyer said in the preparation of the substitute the committee had been followed, but upon solicitation he accepted the Bennett amendment, striking out the provision for a major general.

The substitute was adopted, 85 to 55.

The bill was then read to the house.

Mr. Steele demanded a separate vote on the marine corps substitute, and it was taken by yeas and nays, and the substitute was adopted, 127 to 64. The bill was then passed without division.

Saturday, January 18, was set aside for paying the memory of the late Representative John Simpkins of Massachusetts.

At 5:20 p. m. the house adjourned.

TREATY TO COME UP IN SENATE

Senator Davis Gives Notice of Motion to Amend the Constitution.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—At the opening of today's session of the senate Mr. Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, gave notice that tomorrow morning immediately upon the conclusion of routine business he would move that the senate take up the treaty with the Philippines.

Mr. Pettigrew offered a resolution to the claims of the loyal Seminoles, and it was adopted.

Mr. Turner gave notice that on Thursday after morning business he would address the senate on the West resolution.

The resolution of Mr. Hear, declaring the Philippines ought to be free and independent was laid before the senate, but at the request of Mr. Hear it went over, as he said he desired a more convenient time to address the senate upon it.

OF INTEREST AT THE CAPITAL

St. Charles Postoffice Discontinued, Iowa Postmasters Appointed and Soldiers Discharged Ordered.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—An order was today issued discontinuing the postoffice at St. Charles, Cumming county, Nebraska, mail to Monterey.

J. T. Lilly was today appointed postmaster at Metairie, Big Horn county, Wyoming, also H. H. Reents, at Holland, Grundy county, Iowa.

Instructions directing the discharge of Private Delbert W. Duncan, Company G, Third Nebraska, have been confirmed.

The following members of the Forty-ninth Iowa volunteers have been ordered discharged: Corporal Harry M. Freuburg, Company D; Privates Swan A. Carlson, Company F; James A. Terrill, Company H; Frederick R. Stapel, Company I; Corporal Alonzo E. Ringdahl, Company H; Hospital Steward Albert H. Deringer, Company Thompson, Company E; Charles G. Mitchell, Company G.

Confirmed by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The senate today confirmed these nominations: Postmasters—Iowa, G. Hardenbrook, Maxwell; J. E. Howard, Forest City; G. H. Loryn, Humboldt; W. R. Orchard, Glidden; E. D. Powell, Exira; W. A. Quigg, Hawarden; C. S. Terwilliger, Garner; J. F. Wier, Leading; Kansas, D. C. Batten, Florence; L. Brown, Cedarvale; G. Delaney, Axtel; F. M. Lockard, Norton; J. M. Morgan, Osborne; S. W. Gould, Weir; J. H. Woolen, Mankato.

Representative Hull is Better.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Representative Hull of Iowa, chairman of the committee on military affairs, who has been suffering from the grip, has so far recovered that this morning he was enabled to take a short walk. He has expressed a desire to resume his work at the capital this week, as he is anxious to perfect the army bill.

NO TROUBLE AT ILOILO

Advices from General Otis at Manila Continue to be Reassuring in Character.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The advices received at the War department from General Otis at Manila continue reassuring in character. They show that the relations between the military officials and the insurgents are less strained than they have been, which leads the administration to hope that a peaceful solution of the difficulties confronting the government in the islands will be reached. What troops may have been

by General Miller in the vicinity of Iloilo have not been with a hostile purpose, but to carry out the intentions of the government in its operations there. Conferences have been held with the insurgents, but their conclusions are not made public here.

TWO CENTURIES BEHIND TIME

This is the Way that Havana Impresses Governor Ludlow.

CITY BANKRUPT, DESTITUTE AND HELPLESS

He is Impressed by the Magnitude of the Work of Regeneration in Cuba—Prize Left Behind by Spaniards.

HAVANA, Jan. 17.—Some idea of the conditions here in Havana and of the real magnitude of the work before the military administration can be gathered from a letter recently sent by Major General Ludlow of the Department of Havana to the late Mayor Marquis d'Estebe in reply to a letter commending that certain United States staff officers had been operating in the majority sphere without consulting him.

After an expression of regret that the marquis had been inconvenienced in any way and an assurance that whatever had been done no discourtesy was intended, General Ludlow says:

"You must admit, however, that the city of Havana is in a deplorable condition. The Spaniards have left it bankrupt, unable to pay its employees, who have lacked their salaries for many months. The prisons, asylums and homes for the destitute are without supplies, food or medicine. The sanitary condition is frightful. Almost inconceivable abuses exist, which are a continuing menace to the health of the city."

Two Centuries Behind Time.

"The Spaniards have left Havana without scarcely an attribute of modern civilization and practically in the sanitary condition of a city of two centuries ago. For in time being Havana, as well as the island, is in a helpless and destitute condition. The United States is provisionally in charge of the administration of affairs. The American government has expended large sums of money for the regeneration of the island and is ready to spend more. The money which at this very moment is being used to maintain the charitable institutions of the city is money allotted by the United States as a free gift for this purpose. We have given food rations by the million and employment by the thousands to those who need it."

"The retiring Spanish officials have pillaged almost every public building destined for use, stripping all of everything of value with a few exceptions and leaving behind only the accumulated filth of generations. Within three months will come the wet season with deplorable possibilities as to the outbreak of an epidemic, particularly yellow fever, from which Havana suffers the year round owing to the gross neglect of all sanitary precautions."

No Time for Tedious Detail.

"In these circumstances, faced by the gravest emergency, with immediate measures of relief necessary in all directions, with public institutions, particularly the schools and equipped, with the streets to clean and pave, the sewers to be built, untold abominations to be obliterated and the common people to be educated in the elementary principles of modern civilized life, it is simply impossible at this juncture for the United States military authorities to go through the tedious processes imposed by Spanish methods upon local administration."

In concluding his letter General Ludlow invited the marquis to join in measures tending to ameliorate the deplorable conditions under which Havana suffers.

The trial of James E. Buckley of Company E, Second Louisiana volunteers, for the killing of Private John D. Hughes of the same company January 7, was concluded today at Marianno. It is understood that the verdict of the court is for the death of the accused.

Four hundred policemen have been accepted for service in Havana. No fewer than 100 are Spaniards. Chief Menocal has decided to appoint his three brothers as inspectors at a salary of \$140 a month.

Look Out for Fever.

Mayor La Cotte has issued a general order to all physicians in Havana to notify the authorities of cases of yellow fever or other contagious diseases coming under their attention. A deputation of shore masters called today on the mayor to ask him to pay something like sixteen months' arrears of salary. He has taken the proposal under consideration.

An American recently shipped from Savannah to Calbarren, province of Santa Clara, on the north coast, 1,000 pounds of opium, where it was placed on the market. There being no sale for it the owner brought it to Havana. Collector Bliss referred him to the governor general, who in turn considered it unwise to allow it to be offered here. The owner has already paid the duty at Calbarren.

Private Henry Dexter of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana died last night in camp of smallpox. The whole regiment is being vaccinated, but there is some doubt as to the efficacy of the first virus used.

Major General Wilson of the department of Matanzas, who arrived here today, says everything is quiet in the department that the Cuban general, Betancourt, is cooperating in the reorganization of affairs in the province.

The first meeting of the new city council was held this afternoon, Mayor La Cotte presiding.

Marquis de Villaba, a Spanish senator, now residing in Madrid, will be appointed. It is reported, Spanish consul here.

Discontent continues over the Washington arrangement with the hands of Spain in Cuba over the collection of tax arrears. The feeling is strong that only taxes from January 1 should be exacted, as the country is exhausted.

Senator Federico Mora, the civil governor, in an interview today said here is some doubt as to the full intention of ignoring the political past and working for the future good of Cuba. He appeals to the press for co-operation, asking kindly criticism of errors, and not shrinking from attack on any departure from honorable administration.

Major E. G. Rathbone of the Cuban postal service has found in the registry division in the Havana postoffice in a little chest iron safe, two packages of cash, one containing 9,000 pesetas and other 10,000 pesetas, both addressed to the captain of the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII. He cannot understand why these packages were left when every postage stamp and particle of stationery was taken away by the Spaniards.

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Almost Ready to Inaugurate the Governor in Nevada.

CARSON, Nev., Jan. 17.—The principal event of the day in the senatorial fight was the mass meeting tonight, at which Frank G. Newlands discussed his candidacy, the audience including the entire legislative force of both houses.

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